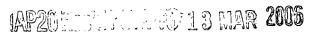
P29496.P04.doc



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Akira OHASHI et al.

Mail Stop PCT

Appl. No:

Not Yet Assigned

PCT Branch

I. A. Filed

September 9, 2004

(U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP2004/013113)

For

FILLER FOR LADLE TAP HOLE VALVE

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims the right of priority granted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 365 based upon Japanese Application No. 2003-321750, filed September 12, 2003. The International Bureau already should have sent a certified copy of the Japanese application to the United States designated office. If the certified copy has not arrived, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted, Akira OHASHI et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein

Ceshe

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